

OGC HAS REVIEWED.

4 January 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Change in Chairmanship of Fairfax County Board
of Supervisors

1. The members of the Board are:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Party</u> | <u>District</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Freehill | Democrat | Falls Church |
| Wilkins | Democrat | Mason |
| Ovenshine | Republican | Mount Vernon |
| Moss | Republican | Lee |
| DeBell | Democrat | Centreville |
| Leigh | Republican | Dranesville |
| Keith | Democrat | Providence |

2. The usual political alignment disregards party lines and finds an urban liberal group of Freehill, Wilkins and Ovenshine opposing a rural conservative group of DeBell, Leigh and Keith. Moss has generally voted with the Freehill group, although he has probably crossed the faction line more often than any other member.

3. Last year Freehill defeated Keith for the chairmanship by a four to three vote. The switch by Moss this year is what elected Keith, since Wilkins, Ovenshine and Freehill had expressed themselves for Freehill again. The normal term for a chairman is four years but the last board chairman, G. Wallace Carper, had held four such terms for a total of 16 years. The new board, opposing such vesting of the chairmanship, had made a gentlemen's agreement that the chairman would be elected every year. So far as I know, it was not part of this agreement that no chairman would run for re-election, but it appears that Moss's switch was dictated not so much by political or policy reasons, as the objection to Freehill standing for re-election.

4. Moss, Ovenshine, DeBell and Keith were signatories last year in a letter to CIA expressing approval of the Langley site. Freehill has also expressed and shown a favorable view, although he would like the Federal Government to build more roads in the area. Wilkins has expressed some objection in the past. Leigh, who

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represents Dranesville District in which Langley is located, is the most directly concerned but has not, to the best of my knowledge, been very articulate one way or the other.

5. I believe Keith's election will in no way decrease the board's support of the Langley site.

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Assistant General Counsel

Distribution:

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1 - General Counsel

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